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Message Text

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11
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 AID-20

DRC-01 /090 W
---------- 068274
R 261419Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5685
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, NI
SUBJECT: UDOJI REPORT DUE IN LATE SEPTEMBER

REF: LAGOS A-136

SUMMMARY: PUBLIC SERVICE REVIEW COMMISSION'S REPORT NOT EXPECTED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 25 , DESPITE PLEAS BY TRADE UNIONS FOR EARLY RELEASE. FMG LIKELY TO ANNOUNCE GENERAL WAGE INCREASE SHORTLY THEREAFTER, PERHAPS IN GOWON'S OCTOBER 1 SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

1. CHIEF J. UDOJI, CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC SERVICE REVIEW COMMISSION, ANNOUNCED AUGUST 23 HIS COMMISSION'S MUCH AWAITED REPORT WILL NOT BE RELEASED PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 25, SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF COMMISSION'S ESTABLISHMENT. SPEAKING AT FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR CANADIAN MEMBERS OF COMMISSION'S GRADING TASK FORCE, UDOJI STRESSED COMMISSION'S WORK WAS TO EVALUATE JOBS AND RECOMMEND GRADINGS BASED ON RESPONSIBILITIES, AND THEREBY ERADICATE SOME ANOMALIES INHERITED FROM COLONIAL ERA. COMMISSION'S WORK WOULD BE CONTINUING PROCESS AS FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD TAKE SOMETIME
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TO COMPLETE. HE WARNED THAT COMMISSION WOULD NOT BE

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PRESSURED INTO RELEASING INCOMPLETE REPORT, AN
OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO GROWING NUMBER OF PUBLIC SATEMENTS
BY VARIOUS TRADE UNION GROUPS URGING EARLY
RELEASE OF UDOJI REPORT.

2. MOTIVE BEHIND TRADE UNION STATEMENTS IS WIDELY
HELD ASSUMPTION REPORT WILL EITHER CONTAIN RECOMMENDATION
FOR GENERAL WAGE INCREASE OR WILL AT LEAST SIGNAL END
OF WAGE FREEZE IMPOSED AT START OF COMMISSION'S WORK.
EXPECTATION THAT WAGE INCREASE MIGHT BE TIED TO UDOJI
REPORT STEMS IN PART FROM GENERAL GOWON'S BUDGET SPEECH
EARLIER THIS YEAR IN WHICH HE STATED WAGE FREEZE WOULD BE
REVIEWED IN AUGUST WHEN UDOJI REPORT WAS EXPECTED. UDOJI'S
STATEMENT MADE NO OBBIOUS REFERENCE TO GENERAL WAGE INCREASE
AND APPEARS TO SUPPORT BELIEF THAT WAGE REVIEW WILL BE
UNCONNECTED TO ACTUAL UDOJI REPORT, OTHER THAN SIMPLY
AWAITING COMPLETION OF COMMISSION'S WORK. TGIVEN LATE
SEPTEMBER DATE FOR REPORT, FMG MAY INCLUDE
ANNOUNCENT OF GENERAL WAGE INCREASE IN GOWON'S
NATIONAL DAY SPEECH OCTOBER 1.

3. MEANWHILE INCREASING NUMBER OF UNIONS HAVE TURNED
TOWARDS NEGOTIATING ONE-TIME PAYMENTS OF HARDSHIP
BONUSES AS BEST SHORT-TERM METHOD OF OBTAINING TEMPORARY
RELIEF FROM INFLATIONARY PRESSURES. ACCORDING
TO SOME REPORTS, MOST LARGER BUSINESS FIRMS ARE PREPARING TO PAY
WORKERS ANY WAGE INCREASES WHICH FMG
MIGHT ANNOUNCE, WITH EXPECTATIONS RANGING FROM 20
TO 35 PERCENT INCREASES FOR LOWER PAID WORKERS.
INDUSTRIAL UNREST OVER PAYMENT OF INCREASE SEEMS
MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR IN SMALLER FIRMS, MANY OF WHICH
REPORTEDLY STILL HAVE NOT PAID WAGE INCREASES RECOMMENDED
IN 1971 ADEBO WAGE REPORT. FMG, IN ORDER TO AVOID
REPETITION OF 1971 EXPERIENCE, MAY MAKE THI YEAR'S
WAGE ORDER MANDATORY THROUGH USE OF FEDERAL DECREE.
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